



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

25 FEBRUARY 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Oakland – Former Gang Member Arrested for Criminal Threats Involving Hate Crimes

(U) Reginald Jackson, a former gang member from Berkeley, has reportedly been arrested over hate crimes after posting threatening messages online. The Oakland Police Department said a Berkeley man was taken into custody after "social media partners" alerted them to "disturbing messages" directed at Asian communities online. Police records show that Jackson has a lengthy list of past felonies, including attempted robbery and weapons charges, including possession of an AR-15 assault rifle.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [Newsweek](#)

(U) Twin Peaks – Father and Son Must Pay Millions for National Drug Rehab Fraud

(U) A father-son team must pay \$26.7 million in restitution, and serve time in federal prison, for fraudulently signing up addicts for health insurance and getting kickbacks from treatment centers in California. Jeffrey White and his son Nicholas White used fake addresses to buy policies for clients in states where they didn't actually live, but where Obamacare health care exchanges offered the most generous reimbursements for addiction treatment. The Whites paid the clients' insurance premiums, arranged to have them transported to California and admitted into expensive treatment centers.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [Mercury News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – Suspected Smuggler with 10 Immigrants in SUV Leads Border Patrol on Pursuit

(U) San Diego – Ten undocumented immigrants were detained after the vehicle they were allegedly being smuggled in led Border Patrol agents on a high-speed chase that ended in a multi-vehicle collision. The pursuit began when the driver of an SUV failed to stop at the Border Patrol checkpoint on State Route 94 in Dulzura, according to the Agent Justin Castrejon. The driver crashed into at least two civilian vehicles and also hit Border Patrol vehicles during the course of the chase. Four Border Patrol agents involved in the pursuit were taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, Castrejon said.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [NBC San Diego](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Atlanta – Cobb County School District Says Cyber Attack Prompted 'Code Red' Lockdown

(U) Marietta – The Cobb County School District is investigating a malfunction of its emergency alert system, saying it was a "targeted, external attack" that placed all 112 of its schools on lockdown. The district's AlertPoint system reportedly malfunctioned, and employees received a message indicating an active alarm. Cobb schools said it found the alarm was intentionally set off and was "uniquely limited to the AlertPoint system." The district requested the help of the Cobb County Police Department's Technology Based Crimes Unit, which started its investigation of the alarm being triggered by a possible cyber-attack.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [The Atlanta Journal-Constitution](#)

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(U) District of Columbia – CISA Releases Advisory on Exploitation of Accellion File Transfer Appliance

(U) Washington – This joint advisory is the result of a collaborative effort by cybersecurity authorities of various countries. These authorities are aware of cyber actors exploiting vulnerabilities in Accellion File Transfer Appliance (FTA). Worldwide, actors have exploited the vulnerabilities to attack multiple federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial government organizations as well as private industry organizations including those in the medical, legal, telecommunications, finance, and energy sectors. According to Accellion, this activity involves attackers leveraging four vulnerabilities to target FTA customers.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [Homeland Security Today](#)

(U) Michigan – Two Men Charged for Threatening Public Officials

(U) Lansing – Daniel Thompson, 62, charged with three counts of malicious use of service provided by a telecommunications service provider, allegedly left threatening messages for US Senator Debbie Stabenow stating he was angry about the results of the November election. Clinton Stewart, 43, of Douglas, Georgia, charged with one count of malicious use of service provided by a telecommunications service provider, allegedly left a threatening voicemail for Michigan Court of Claims Judge Cynthia Stephens in which he accused “activist judges” of making rulings that favored Joe Biden to win the election through mail-in ballots.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [ABC13](#)

(U) Michigan – Ransomware Attackers Target Saginaw Township Community Schools

(U) Saginaw – The Saginaw Township Community Schools is investigating a ransomware attack on the school network. According to an email sent to parents from Superintendent Bruce Martin, malware was used to encrypt files and systems and lock users out of them. The people responsible for the attack then demanded ransom money from the school in exchange for the key to decrypt the systems. Martin said the school is working with tech professionals to investigate the attack.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [WNEM](#)

(U) Oregon – Former UPS Driver Pleads Guilty in I-5 Shootings

(U) Medford – A Roseburg man who shot at cars along Interstate 5 in southwest Oregon from his UPS vehicle has pleaded guilty to multiple charges, according to county officials. Kenneth Ayers, 49, pleaded guilty to three counts of attempted murder, five counts of unlawful use of a weapon, three counts of reckless endangerment and multiple counts of criminal mischief, the Jackson County District Attorney’s Office said in a news release. The incidents, investigated by the Oregon State Police and local law enforcement agencies, happened from May into August 2020. No motive for the shootings has been released.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [Fox12](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Belgium – Cocaine 'Worth Billions' Seized in Record Germany and Belgium Haul

(U) Antwerp – German officials discovered 16 tons in five shipping containers that had arrived in the port of Hamburg from Paraguay. Police in the Netherlands were notified and a further 7.2 tons of cocaine was seized at the Belgian port of Antwerp. German officials said the cocaine had a street value of billions of euros. A 28-year-old man suspected of involvement in the trafficking of the drugs has been arrested in the Netherlands, Dutch police said. In Antwerp, the drug was hidden in a container filled with wooden blocks from Panama.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [BBC](#)

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(U) Ecuador – Number of Inmates Dead in Prison Riots Increases to 79

(U) Quito – The number of inmates who have died in riots at multiple prisons in Ecuador increased to 79 after authorities regained control of the facilities in three cities. Hundreds of police officers and military personnel converged on the prisons after apparently coordinated fights broke out in the maximum-security wings as rival gangs fought for leadership within the detention centers. Authorities have said the clashes were precipitated by a search for weapons carried out at the facilities.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [AP News](#)

(U) Germany – Court Convicts Radical Imam of Membership in ISIS

(U) Berlin – A former imam at a radical mosque in Germany was convicted of being a member of the Islamic State group and sentenced to 10 and a half years in prison. The court convicted Ahmad Abdulaziz Abdullah A., who goes by the alias Abu Walaa, of membership in a foreign terrorist organization as well as terror financing and being an accessory to preparing a serious act of violence, a court statement said. The court found that Abu Walaa and his network radicalized young people in northern and western Germany and sent them to areas controlled by IS.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [ABC News](#)

(U) Germany – Conviction in Landmark Case over Syrian Government Torture

(U) Koblenz – A German court sentenced a former member of President Bashar al-Assad's security services to four and a half years in prison for abetting the torture of civilians, the first such verdict for crimes against humanity in the 10-year-old Syrian civil war. The higher regional court in the western city of Koblenz said Eyad A. had arrested at least 30 anti-government protesters at the start of the conflict in 2011 and sent them to an intelligence facility where he knew detainees were tortured.

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) Ukraine – Country Reports Cyber-Attack on Government Document Management System

(U) Kiev – The Ukrainian government said that Russian hackers compromised a government file-sharing system as part of an attempt to disseminate malicious documents to other government agencies. The target of the attack was the System of Electronic Interaction of Executive Bodies (SEI EB), a web-based portal used by Ukrainian government agencies to circulate documents between each other and public authorities. In a statement, officials with Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council said the purpose of the attack was "the mass contamination of information resources of public authorities."

SOURCE: 24 February 2021, [ZDNet](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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